

# Bill Brown Scenario

# Brent Brown

## Your life:

- Your mother and father, Bill and Betty Brown, live in Wisconsin. You and your wife live in California. You have three children.
- Your dad has been diagnosed with terminal cancer and receives hospice services at home. Your mother is still his primary caregiver. She is devoted to him and does her best to handle his increasing needs.
- You are planning a trip to Wisconsin, so you can give your mom some assistance with your dad.
- You are worried that your mom is overwhelmed. You call on a regular basis and ask if she is doing okay. She usually tells you that everything is “just fine.” But you’re not so sure.
- You feel guilty that you can’t help out more, but you’re doing your best.

## You value:

- Making sure your dad has the support necessary to live in comfort at home
- Giving your mom emotional support, so she can be there for your dad
- Providing support to your own wife and family as you go through some hard times raising your children

## You appear in Scenes Two and Four

## **Summary of the Scenario**

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This Scenario focuses on Bill Brown, an 83-year-old man dying of cancer. Bill has been in extreme pain due to cancer for over a year, and he and his family have decided to stop cancer treatment. He is expected to die within the next few weeks. Bill's wife, Betty, has been providing home care for him for the past year, and Bill has been receiving hospice care for three weeks. He wants to die at home.

Bill and Betty have one son and three grandchildren who live in California. They have no other close family members in Wisconsin. Bill is on morphine and other pain medications. He has begun sleeping more as the drugs, pain, and cancer take over his body. He has only brief moments of alertness, is barely eating, and is rapidly losing weight. Rashida, the hospice aide, realizes that Betty is increasingly overwhelmed with the task of caring for Bill. Betty has not been turning Bill regularly, which has resulted in increased pressure ulcers. Rashida also believes that Bill has not been getting enough pain medication.

## Lives

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- **Bill Brown**, hospice patient
- **Betty Brown**, Bill's wife
- **Brent Brown**, Bill and Betty's son
- **Rashida Hoskins**, hospice aide
- **Albert Holmes**, RN Case Manager – Rashida's supervisor
- **Bea Console**, bereavement counselor
- **Shawn Wright**, hospice social worker
- **Randa Records**, Documentation Specialist

## Who is in each Scene

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- **Scene One** (on Blue paper): Rashida, Betty, and Bill
- **Scene Two** (Green): Rashida and Brent
- **Scene Three** (Yellow): Rashida, Albert, Bea, and Shawn
- **Scene Four** (Pink): Rashida, Albert, Bill, Betty, and Brent

## **Brent Brown, age 54**

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### **Starter page**

- Your mother and father, Bill and Betty Brown, live in Wisconsin. You and your wife live in California. You have three children, ages 21, 17, and 14.
- Your dad has been diagnosed with terminal cancer and receives hospice services at home. Your mother is still the primary caregiver for your dad. She is devoted to him and does her best to handle his increasing needs.
- You are planning a trip to Wisconsin, so you can give your mom some assistance with your dad.
- You are worried that your mom is overwhelmed. You call on a regular basis and ask if she is doing okay. She usually tells you that everything is “just fine.” But you’re not so sure.
- You feel guilty that you can’t help out more, but you’re doing the best you can.

### **You value:**

- Making sure your dad has the support necessary to live in comfort at home
- Giving your mom some emotional support, so she can be there for your dad
- Providing support to your own wife and family as you go through some hard times raising your children

**Props:** Picture of you and your dad

**Scenes you are in:** Two (Green) and Four (Pink)

## **Warm-Up**

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### **Bill and Betty:**

- It is a good day for Bill.
- You can talk about Brent and his children.
- You just received a letter from Brent. Betty can read the letter.

### **Rashida, Albert, Bea, and Shawn:**

- You have just attended a staff meeting about collaborating with other agencies. Briefly discuss an interagency collaboration that you've experienced and how it went for you.

### **Brent and Randa:**

- Brent shows Randa a picture of him and his dad.
- Randa asks Brent about his childhood. Brent tells Randa about the good times he had as a kid.
- Randa asks Brent about his next trip to see his parents.

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## Letter from Brent to his parents

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Dear Mom and Dad,

It has been too long since I have been able to come and visit. Though we talk each week I would really rather be there to help you. I have been talking to Judy and the kids and I think I can come to visit later this month. I have to talk to my boss to see if I can get the time off. I will call you soon and let you know when I can come.

Please call me if there is anything I can do before I can come home.

Know that I love you and that both of you have been great parents.

Love,

Brent

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## Scene Two: Green

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**Time:** Thursday, 4:00pm

**Participants:** Rashida and Brent

*Outside the Browns' home*

**Rashida:** Hello, you must be Brent! I've heard so much about you. Your folks are happy that you've come home to help. I'm Rashida, their hospice aide. I come over and check in on your father.

**Brent:** Nice to meet you Rashida. How's Dad doing?

**Rashida:** Well, since your parents have told me that it's okay for me to discuss your father's condition openly with you, I must tell you honestly that your father is in a lot of pain. And, I'm worried that your mother is overwhelmed. I think she may need help caring for your dad.

**Brent:** What do you mean? Mom has always taken care of Dad. What's the problem?

**Rashida:** She's been caring for him by herself for the past year. I just don't think she gets a chance to take care of herself very often. So, I think the stress and grief have taken a toll on her.

**Brent:** I know it must be hard for Mom, but I just can't be here all the time to help...I live too far away. It was hard enough getting *this* time off.

**Rashida:** I know it must be hard being so far away, but things need to get better for your dad or it won't be safe for him to stay at home.

**Brent:** My dad has the right to stay at home. I want him to be at home when he dies.

**Rashida:** We would like to help your dad stay at home, but the issue of receiving his pain meds timely has to be addressed immediately. He needs to have his medication four times daily. He also needs to be turned three times a day to prevent him from getting pressure ulcers.

**Brent:** Well, I'm here now. I can make sure that Dad gets his medication on time, and I'll be sure to turn him.

**Rashida:** That's great Brent. I'm sure your mother will appreciate the help. How long will you be staying?

**Brent:** I can only stay a few days. I have to get back to California to take care of my family.

**Rashida:** Okay, maybe we can set up a time to talk. I'd like to set up a plan for your dad's care after you leave.

**Brent:** I'd be happy to do that. I want to make sure Dad's wishes are respected. He really wants to stay at home.

**Rashida:** I'll get back to you before you leave, Brent. Goodbye.

## Scene Four: Pink

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**Time:** Friday, 1:00pm

**Participants:** Bill, Betty, Brent, Albert, and Rashida

*Rashida and Albert ring doorbell.*

**Betty:** Oh hello, Rashida. Come on in. I understand you met Brent yesterday?

**Brent:** Yes, we did meet. Hi Rashida.

**Rashida:** Hi Brent. I brought Albert, our nurse case manager. He's come to see how Bill is doing.

**Betty:** Thanks for coming.

**Brent:** Dad's been sleeping most of the day.

**Albert:** That's normal and it gives us a chance to talk for a couple of minutes. Betty, can we sit and talk about how things are going?

*All have a seat at the kitchen table.*

**Betty:** I just haven't gotten a chance to rest, with all of the cooking and getting the house ready for Brent...

**Brent:** Oh, mom you know you don't have to clean up for me. You have other things to worry about. Besides, I'm here to help!

**Betty:** Now, Brent, I won't have you coming home to a dirty house. I hardly get to see you at all!

**Brent:** Mom, I know, I just have so much to take care of with my kids now, too. I wish I could be here more often.

**Albert:** Brent, it's good that you're here to help now. Betty, I'm concerned that there is a lot of responsibility on your shoulders. I think we need to review some options that take care of *you* as well as Bill.

**Betty:** What are you thinking of?

**Albert:** As you know, Rashida and I are both interested in the best possible care for Bill, and I know the two of you are as well.

**Rashida:** It looks like Bill is starting to wake up. We should include him in this conversation.

*All move to Bill's bedroom.*

**Albert:** Hello Bill. Rashida and I stopped by together today to see if there are any additional needs or services that you might need.

**Bill:** Well, I'm glad you came over. I'm really worried about Betty. She works so hard taking care of me.

**Betty:** Oh Bill, I don't want you worrying about me! You're the one who's sick!

**Brent:** Albert and Rashida seem to have some ideas for all of us. I understand that it's possible to hire a part-time caregiver to help with Dad. I may live in California, but that's one way I could help. I'm happy to contribute to the cost.

**Rashida:** Betty, you mentioned that you hadn't been able to get to church lately. Could we contact your minister and see about any volunteers who might be willing to come in to visit with you or bring meals?

**Albert:** In our county, there are respite services available for family caregivers. I would be happy to call them for you.

**Betty:** Well I have to admit that I can't do this all alone anymore. I love my husband and I want him to have the best care possible.

**Bill:** I'll feel a lot better knowing that you aren't so overworked, Betty.

**Albert:** Great! Let's start with these ideas. I'll be back early next week to see how things are working out. Rashida and I will leave now and let you enjoy your family time together.

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## **Bill Brown – Individualized Care Plan**

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### ***(excerpted)***

#### **Diagnosis:**

- Terminal colon cancer

#### **Interests:**

- Reduction of pain and assurance of comfort: ensure that pain medication is administered regularly and that pain is managed effectively. Contact nurse case manager if pain management needs to be re-assessed
- Death with dignity: ensure that Bill participates in decisions about his care as much as possible

#### **Nutrition:**

- Provide favorite foods as tolerable; Bill's appetite is naturally declining as his body begins to shut down
- Do not try to push food; allow Bill to eat as much or as little as he wishes

#### **Safety and care instructions:**

- Reduce potential for pressure ulcers and risk of infection by turning Bill 3 times daily
- Cleanse Bill's body once daily
- Provide liquid morphine pain medication as needed, up to every 2 hours
- Provide food as patient requests
- Encourage to drink at least 8 oz of fluid every two hours